Megan Carlin

Stiletto Sprint

Saturday April 9th marked the first Stiletto Sprint in Charlotte to raise money and awareness for Ovarian Cancer. Starting early at 8:00 a.m., the event kicked off in the parking lot of the South Park mall with hundreds of men and women dressed to impress in their stilettos ready to sprint to the finish.

Students from Charlotte Catholic also participated in the event, many from the inspiration of Molly Finegan. Encouraging class mates and spreading the word, Finegan helped arrange the event and her team alone raised $2,350. However that was only a portion of the total $50,000 which all benefited the Carolinas Ovarian Cancer Research Fund at Blumenthal Cancer Center.

To many of the students, walking in heels let alone sprinting 100 meters in them was a challenge they faced Saturday morning. Though the risks were high, they readily accepted the challenge and came out victorious and unscathed – almost.

Junior Annalise Burnett lost balance at the beginning of her meet and faltered to the ground. But her determination drove her to bounce back up and finish the race. As the scrapes on her knees and elbows caused by passers to gasp at the sight of her injuries, she simply laughed and said “It’s worse than it looks but it shows how dedicated I am to the cause.”

On the other hand, Junior Kevin Kirby ran in the competition heat placing fourth place in the final heat, almost winning the $500 dollar gift card prize. Kirby said “I’ve already started for next year so hopefully I can win first place. ”

When it came to finding stilettos to wear to the event, most of the girls had no problem finding some in their closet or even buying them from the store. The guys however had more of a challenge. Austin Jones described his dilemma and said “I needed to find a certain pair of shoes to look really sexy. I decided to borrow some from my friend’s dad. He’s really fashion forward.”

The turnout was massive with children, men, and women all wearing heels of all shapes and sizes. Some people even arrived in costumes such as tutus and dresses, but those were just the men. Various women also went all out, one even wearing a teal ball gown.

The inspiration for the participation in this event was mostly encouraged and advertised by Molly Finegan around school for months in advance. Her enthusiasm derived from her mom’s battle with Ovarian Cancer and her determination to help fund research for the cause.

“When I saw all my friends on Saturday wearing heels, I was touched. It meant the world to see how much support I received for the cause for my mom. I felt like the luckiest girl in the world. Corny, yes, but one hundred percent true,” said Finegan.

The final moments of the race were left for the presentation of prizes for the winners of the best costumes, the best stilettos, and the fastest male and female sprinter. And even though no one from Catholic won first place, everyone had fun cheering on their friends, sprinting in their stilettos, and raising money for a worthy cause. So even without the trophy, everyone was a winner.